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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/773,573	02/09/2004	Tsutomu Kojima	P21-164404M/ISI	3561

21254 7590 02/28/2006

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EXAMINER


KENNEDY, JOSHUA T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/773,573	KOJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joshua T. Kennedy	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 1/6/2006 has been entered.

Claims 1-20 have been examined

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 15, and 16 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, Line 11: "engagement wall faces" should be --engagement wall that faces--.

Claims 15 and 16, Line 2; "walls" should be --faces--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Petrakis et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,327,758).

As to Claim 1. Petrakis et al disclose a securing clip capable of securing a first panel member with a second panel member, comprising:

a first fitting portion (106) having a U-character shape; and
a second fitting portion having a U-character shape (108), wherein:
the securing clip being like an S-character in cross section (Fig. 5); and
each of the first fitting portion and the second fitting portion comprising an engaging pawl (118 and 112, respectively) on an inner wall face, and the second fitting portion comprising an engagement wall (152) having an engagement face (154,156) at an end of the engagement wall that faces an opening in the closed end of the U-character shape of the second fitting portion (Fig 5).

As to Claim 2. Petrakis et al disclose the engagement wall (152) existing in bilateral symmetry (Fig. 6).

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As to Claims 3 and 4. Petrakis et al disclose an engagement face (154,156) of the engagement wall (152) being inclined with respect to a central axis of the U-character shape of the second fitting portion (Fig. 5).

As to Claims 5-7. Petrakis et al disclose a detachment grip portion (112; Examiner considers the tab to not only engage the structure, but provide a grip portion to release the structure from engagement).

As to Claims 8-11. Petrakis et al disclose a rib wall (146) being protruded on an inner wall face of the second fitting portion.

As to Claims 12 and 13. Petrakis et al disclose said engagement face (154,156) of the engagement wall is inclined such that said engagement wall is capable of being wedged into contact with the second panel member upon abutting the regulating wall of the second panel member (Fig. 11).

As to Claim 14. Petrakis et al disclose a securing clip for securing a first panel having a hole to a second panel having a hole and a regulating wall, the securing clip comprising:

a first U-shaped fitting (106) comprising a first engaging pawl (118) on an inner wall of the first U-shaped fitting capable of engaging the hole in the first panel (120); and
a second U-shaped fitting (108) comprising:

a second engaging pawl (112) on an inner wall of the second U-shaped fitting capable of engaging the hole in the second panel; and

an engagement wall (152) comprising an engaging face (154,156) at an end of the engagement wall that faces an opening in the close end of the U-shape of the second U-shaped fitting (Fig 5),

wherein the first U-shaped fitting and the second U-shaped fitting form an S-shaped cross-section (Fig 5).

As to Claim 15 and 16. Petrakis et al disclose the engagement wall (152) comprising a pair of engagement faces (154,156) symmetrically positioned around said second engaging pawl (142; Fig 11).

As to Claim 17. Petrakis et al disclose the engagement face (152) being inclined with respect to an axis of said hole in said second panel (Fig. 5).

As to Claim 18. Petrakis et al disclose a detachment grip portion (112; Examiner considers the tab to not only engage the structure, but provide a grip portion to release the structure from engagement) capable of detaching the securing clip from the second panel.

As to Claim 19. Petrakis et al disclose a rib wall (146) on an inner face

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As to Claim 20. Petrakis et al disclose said engagement wall (152) being inclined such that contact with the regulating wall of the second panel (180) being capable of resisting removal of said second panel from said second fitting (Fig 11).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joshua T. Kennedy whose telephone number is 571-272-8297. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 7am - 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (571) 272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JTK
2/16/2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel P. Stodola". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Daniel" and last name "Stodola" clearly legible.

DANIEL P. STODOLA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600